Potato Blight

- “This vegetable cholera”
Board of Works/Public Works in Ireland

- “Ireland,” Our Own Correspondent, *The Times*, 19395 (16 Nov. 1846), p. 6
- “no person should be employed whose tenements are valued...at £5 per annum”
- “the indisposition that exists on the part of labourers to go to private works..., in the expectation of getting work on the public roads”

condition of his country? Has any one yet satisfactorily reconciled the inconsistency which this autumn has exhibited most glaringly—viz., that of the abundant exportations from Ireland, and the non-payment of rent in Ireland? We can understand how the cottier must have been affected by the potato rot; but how, except indirectly, this can have made the superior middleman and comfortable farmer suffer, we do not see. Yet from this class have proceeded remonstrances and refusals of rent as urgent as from others. They have been exporting abundantly too, and selling fairly, if not dearly, in the English market. Yet now they are petitioners to the English people for what, under these circumstances, must be called superfluous alms. Again, is there any one who will tell us what the general purchase of weapons throughout the country means? Does it augur an insurrection against the Government, or against the landlords? or an outbreak against the Board of Works? Are rents to be formally repealed by Captain Rock, or the Union by Smith O’Brien? or is there to be a general parliament of the Irish labourers for the purpose of extorting the highest payable wages, and yielding the smallest possible quantity of work?”
Corn Laws and Ireland (# articles/decade)

- << 1740 [1 article]
- 1760 - 1769 [1 article]
- 1770 - 1779 [7 articles]
- 1780 - 1789 [22 articles]
- 1790 - 1799 [21 articles]
- 1800 - 1809 [50 articles]
- 1810 - 1819 [182 articles]
- 1820 - 1829 [476 articles]
- 1830 - 1839 [583 articles]
- 1840 - 1849 [777 articles]
- 1850 - 1859 [319 articles]
- 1860 - 1869 [261 articles]
- 1870 - 1879 [169 articles]
- 1880 - 1889 [271 articles]
- 1890 - 1899 [197 articles]
- 1900 - 1909 [146 articles]
- 1910 - 1919 [23 articles]
- 1920 - 1929 [10 articles]
- 1930 >> [7 articles]
Repeal of Corn Laws and Ireland

“The Late Crisis,” Dublin University Magazine, 27, 158 (Feb. 1846), p. 248

Article author Irish (Protestant Ascedancy presumably) is against the repeal of the Corn Laws (for one thing, it would lead to lower tithes, destroying the Church of Ireland); but here makes the reasonable complaint that repealing Corn Laws/restoring free market will not “augment the industrial resources of Ireland.”
Lord John Russell (the Whig Prime Minister and Ireland)

“Lord John Russell's Visit to Ireland,” Examiner, 2118 (2 Sept. 1848), p. 562

Compares the good this will do with the similar good the Queen’s visit will do (actually, the newspaper thinks it WILL do good).

At the bottom, “the improvement and pacification of Ireland” (the British seem less concerned with the starvation/sickness and more concerned with rural “outrages” by secret societies
Lord John Russell and Ireland

- “Lord John Russell has just been in Ireland,” The Times, 19966 (12 Sept. 1848), p. 4
- A “leading article” (an editorial) worth examining
- Most concerned with combating Daniel O’Connell’s campaign to reverse the Act of Union.
Soup Kitchens

- The other function of the Relief Committees was to give gratuitous aid in cases of extreme destitution, and this was well performed by them to the extent of their means. As the distress increased, the distribution of cooked food by the establishment of soup kitchens, was found the most effectual means of alleviating it. The attention of the committees was, therefore, generally directed to this object by the Inspecting Officers. Boilers were manufactured and sent to Ireland in great numbers, and Government donations were now in every case made equal in amount to the private subscriptions (‘pound for pound’), and in cases of more than usual pressure, twice or three times that amount was given. This mode of giving relief was not found to be attended with any serious abuse. The committees expended in a great measure their own money, which made them more careful in seeing that it was laid out with the greatest possible advantage and economy; and as the ration of cooked food distributed by them was not an object of desire to persons in comfortable circumstances, as money wages were, it acted in a great degree as a test of destitution. The great defect of this system of relief was, that being voluntary, it could not be relied on to meet the necessities of a numerous population in a period of great emergency, and the difficulty of obtaining private subscriptions was often greatest in the most distressed districts.

- “Correspondence explanatory of the Measures adopted by her Majesty's Government for the Relief of Distress arising from the Failure of the Potato Crop in Ireland,” Edinburgh Review, or critical journal, 87, 175 (Jan. 1848), p. 266

- They work well and not given to “abuse” (19th-century version of welfare “cheats”); the only “defect” is that this is a voluntary system and doesn’t reach most of the population!
Relief Committees

- An Irish Landholder, “Relief Committees In Ireland,” *The Times*, 19438; (5 Jan. 1847), p. 6
- The rest of this letter mentions relief committees, but the tone here is interesting because it focuses on the loss of self-respect and independence (which is, perhaps, of less significance if one is starving, I would think)
Typhus

- From blight 1845- to scurvy, typhus, etc. 1846-
Evictions and Emigration

- Suggestion of setting up Liberia for freed blacks (it was) because their position was being taken by evicted Irish in America (it wasn’t)